

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) Device for sterilising objects, the device being ~~(19, 40, 42, 50), in particular medical or surgical instruments, of the type~~ adapted to create from a gaseous flow subjected to an electric field a gaseous plasma of which ~~[[the]]~~ a post-discharge flow which issues therefrom is brought into contact with ~~[[the]]~~ a surface of the objects to be treated, the device comprising ~~characterized in that it comprises:~~

means for producing ~~adapted to produce~~ said plasma from a gaseous flow exclusively constituted by nitrogen, said means for producing including an enclosure in which the gaseous plasma is produced, said enclosure comprising a generator of microwaves, the post-discharge flow that issues from the gaseous plasma being admitted via a conduit into a sterilization chamber in which said objects are disposed; and

means for heating said objects ~~adapted to take the latter, in the course of treatment,~~ to a temperature of at least 60°C, said means for heating including a metal object holder disposed in said sterilization chamber, said metal object holder heating under the effect of recombination of the nitrogen and heating said objects held thereby.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) Device according to Claim ~~[[2]]~~1,
~~characterized in that the~~ wherein walls of the sterilisation
chamber ~~are constituted by~~ comprise a material presenting a
~~[[low]]~~ capacity of recombination of the nitrogen ~~atoms~~ less than
that of said metal object holder.

4. (currently amended) Device according to Claim 3,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the walls ~~wall~~ of the sterilisation
chamber comprise at least one of ~~is constituted by~~ glass, ~~and/or~~
ceramics, and ~~and/or~~ a polymer.

5. (currently amended) Device according to claim ~~[[2]]~~1,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the sterilisation chamber is
constituted by an autoclave.

6-7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) Device according to Claim ~~[[7]]~~1,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the object-holder is made of brass.

9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) Device according to claim 5,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein heating of the objects ~~[[(19)]]~~
contained in the sterilisation chamber ~~[[(7)]]~~ is ensured at least
in part by ~~[[the]]~~ walls of the sterilization chamber that ~~latter~~
~~which, to that end,~~ are constituted by a material adapted to heat
up by recombination of the nitrogen ~~atoms~~.

11. (currently amended) Device according to claim 1,
~~characterized in that the~~ wherein walls of the sterilisation

chamber ~~[[(7)]]~~ are provided with ~~additional, in particular electric,~~ heating means.

12-15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) Device according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the sterilisation chamber is constituted by an autoclave.

17. (currently amended) Device according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the sterilisation chamber is constituted by an autoclave.

18-20. (canceled)